

### **REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-25 are now present in the application. Claims 22-25 have been added. Claims 1 and 12 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

#### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103**

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-16, 18, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Katoh et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,173,433 (hereinafter "Katoh"). Claims 6 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katoh in view of Cariffe et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,201,548. Claims 8 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katoh in view of Hernandez et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,686,522. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

Independent claim 1 recites a combination of steps including "displaying an existing network in said working area," "identifying at least one subarea of the working area where an object is validly insertable into said network," "identifying at least one type of object that can be validly inserted into the network in said subarea," "visually indicating said at least one subarea," "visually indicating said at least one object type in association with each indicated subarea," "receiving input from the user selecting one of said at least one object type indicated in association with one of said at least one subarea," "displaying an extended network where an

additional object of the selected type is inserted into the selected subarea” and “said steps being performed by a computer application software for creating a logical network.”

Independent claim 12 recites a combination of elements including “means for displaying an existing network in said working area,” “means for identifying at least one subarea of the working area where an object is validly insertable into said network,” “means for identifying at least one type of object that can be validly inserted into the network in said subarea,” “means for visually indicating said at least one subarea on the computer display,” “means for visually indicating said at least one object type in association with each indicated subarea on the computer display,” “means for receiving input from the user selecting one of said at least one object type indicated in association with one of said at least one subarea”, “means for displaying an extended network where an additional object of the selected type is inserted into the selected subarea”, and “wherein a computer application software is used to create the logical network.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of steps set forth in claim 1 and the combination of elements set forth in claim 12 are not disclosed or suggested by the Katoh reference relied on by the Examiner.

The Examiner on page 3, lines 7-11 and page 8, lines 13-17 alleged that Katoh discloses “identifying at least one subarea of the working area where an object is validly insertable into said network” as recited in claims 1 and 12. The Examiner also alleged that FIG. 8 of Katoh depicts a computer using software to teach “said steps being performed by a computer application software for creating a logical network” as recited in claim 1 and “wherein a computer application software is used to create the logical network ”as recited in claim 12. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In particular, the Examiner alleged that identifying two terminals will identify the virtual path (referred to by the Examiner as the subarea). However, the Examiner also cited Katoh's disclosure "to enable a virtual path to be generated, connection terminals for two associated blocks are provided by the operator specifying them." (Col. 17, lines 33-35; emphasis added). In other words, Katoh simply discloses that the two terminals are identified by the operator, not by a computer application software as recited in claims 1 and 12. Therefore, Katoh fails to teach or disclose "identifying at least one subarea of the working area where an object is validly insertable into said network" as recited in claims 1 and 12, "said steps being performed by a computer application software for creating a logical network" as recited in claim 1 and "wherein a computer application software is used to create the logical network "as recited in claim 12.

The Examiner also alleged that Katoh in FIGs. 3A-D discloses "visually indicating said at least one subarea" as recited in claims 1 and 12. Again, Applicants respectfully disagree.

In particular, Katoh discloses that FIGs. 3A-D are "explanatory drawings showing possible combinations of virtual path circles according to the embodiment of this invention." (Col. 5, lines 14-16; emphasis added). Katoh nowhere discloses that those four virtual paths are visually indicated as subareas on the computer display. In fact, Katoh merely uses FIGs. 3A-D to explain the rule of virtual path generation (see col. 9, lines 46-67; col. 10, lines 1-8) and fails to teach "visually indicating said at least one subarea" as recited in claims 1 and 12.

The Examiner further alleged that Katoh in FIG. 22 discloses "visually indicating said at least one object type in association with each indicated subarea" as recited in claims 1 and 12. Again, Applicants respectfully disagree.

Specifically, Katoh discloses that FIG. 22 is “an explanatory drawing showing the types and shapes of standard circuit parts.” (Col. 5, lines 57-58; emphasis added). Katoh nowhere discloses that those standard circuit parts are visually indicated on the computer display.

In addition, the Examiner seemed to mistakenly construe Katoh’s standard circuit parts as the objects insertable in the virtual path. In fact, those standard circuit parts are merely used for generating the blocks between the virtual path (see col. 15, lines 64-67), they are not used for insertion in the virtual path. In other words, those standard circuit parts are not the object types that can be validly inserted in the virtual path (referred to by the Examiner as the subarea). They are simply the circuit blocks which are connected by the virtual path. Accordingly, Katoh fails to teach “identifying at least one type of object that can be validly inserted into the network in said subarea” and “visually indicating said at least one object type in association with each indicated subarea” as recited in claims 1 and 12.

The Examiner also alleged that Katoh in col. 16, lines 22-24 discloses “receiving input from the user selecting one of said at least one object type indicated in association with one of said at least one subarea” as recited in claims 1 and 12. In particular, Katoh in col. 16, lines 22-24 discloses “[w]hen the operator uses the mouse to operate a determination indication button 705 on the display screen, the CPU 101 finishes a standard circuit part selection processing at step S1001 in FIG. 28.” (Emphasis added). As mentioned, the standard circuit part is merely used for generating the block, not the object that can be inserted in the virtual path. This point is even more evident as shown in FIG. 28 of Katoh. As shown in FIG. 28, the standard circuit parts are selected, parameter-set, drawn (S1001-1003), and then arranged to be a block (S1000). After generating the blocks and setting the parameters of the blocks, the path connection process can

be performed (S1030-1031). Therefore, Katoh in col. 16, lines 22-24 merely discloses the selection of circuit parts for blocks, but fails to disclose the selection of objects that can be inserted in the virtual path. Accordingly, Katoh fails to teach "receiving input from the user selecting one of said at least one object type indicated in association with one of said at least one subarea" as recited in claims 1 and 12.

With regard to the Examiner's reliance on Cariffe and Hernandez, these references have only been relied on for their teachings related to the subject matter of dependent claims. These references also fail to disclose the above combinations of steps and elements as set forth in independent claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, these references fail to cure the deficiencies of Katoh.

Accordingly, none of the references relied on by the Examiner individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of independent claims 1 and 12. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 12 clearly define over the teachings of the utilized references.

In addition, claims 2-11 and 13-21 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 12, and are therefore allowable based on their respective dependence from independent claims 1 and 12, which are believed to be allowable.

It should be noted that the Examiner references the Wright reference on page 6, paragraph 17 of the Examiner's Office Action. However, the Examiner does not mention the Wright reference in the statement of the rejection. **It is believed that the inclusion of the Wright reference is a typographical error; however, clarification is requested.**

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-21 clearly define the present invention over the references relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

### **Additional Claims**

Claims 22-25 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22-25 are allowable due to their respective dependence on independent claims 1 and 12, as well as due to the additional recitations included in these claims.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 22-25 are respectfully requested.

### **CONCLUSION**

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

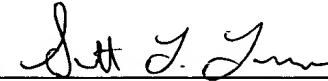
Application No. 09/856,972  
Amendment dated October 27, 2005  
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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